

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(sparta01.005)

Title: *Graphical User Interface for Automated Process Control*

15 Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response to a non-final Office action under 37 C.F.R. 1.111

20 Summary of the prosecution

Examiner mailed a first non-final office action in a second RCE of the above patent application on 11/14/06. In the Office action, Examiner rejected claim 1, which is the only independent claim, under 35 U.S.C. 101 as addressed to non-patentable subject matter, and claims 2-16 and 18-19 as dependent on a rejected claim. Examiner further rejected claims 1-16 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over the combination of U.S. patent 5778,377, Marlin, et al., *Table driven graphical user interface*, issued 7/7/98 (henceforth "Marlin") and U.S. patent 6,853,974, Akifuji, et al., *Workflow system, workflow control method and storage medium*, filed Aug. 20, 1999 (henceforth "Akifuji"). Examiner graciously granted a telephonic interview in this application on March 6, 2007, and though no agreement was reached on the rejections, the interview gave Applicant's attorney valuable insights into how the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101 might be overcome and in how to distinguish what Applicant is claiming from what is disclosed in Marlin and Akifuji. Applicant is amending claim 1 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 and is traversing the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Please amend the claims as follows: